

The Titusville Communicator



Official Publication of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club

WWW.K4KSC.COM

"Titusville Amateur Radio Club's purpose is to conduct our Club programs and activities to help advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in our area communities."

TARC August SITREP

By Paul Fee ~ N6PDF

So many new things happening in the Amateur Radio hobby, it's hard to keep up with them all. Just when you get all comfortable and happy with something, it changes! (Icom IC-7300 owners take notice) But it's all good, and something that's been going on for decades and decades. Without innovation and advancements, we'd all still be hunched over a key sending dots and dashes.

Personally, I'm diving more into digital, and have setup a operational VHF digital packet system in my shack, capable of interfacing with digipeaters up and down the space coast. I'm

spending more time on digital modes than any others lately, just because there's more innovation and interesting advancements in that realm.

One thing that I've embraced is that keeping our aging minds sharp and active requires some mental exercises, and amateur radio affords many opportunities for learning new things and expanding our mental activities. Spending some time relaxing is always a good thing, but so is challenging yourself to dive into a new area of interest.

If not now, when? There's no time like the present to sharpen your focus and expand your horizons. There are so many

facets to the amateur radio hobby that I doubt any of us will get the chance to explore them all, much less become expert in them.

I've spend some time this month exploring Meshtastic, and with gentle prodding by Greg KK4LWB and Dave AD6Q, I'm now among the active nodes here in north Brevard. It's not difficult, but if my view of how Meshtastic functions is correct, I foresee a greater role in the "mesh" communications concept within amateur radio. Always something to learn! Lots more!

N6PDF ~ TARC President

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Direct Reception of NOAA Weather Satellite Images!

By Steve Schindler ~ NA4SA

This is an image of Hurricane Erin that I received from the NOAA-15 spacecraft on August 19, 2025 using an inexpensive setup at my QTH. I built a V-dipole antenna, used a RTL-SDR receiver, and fed the signal to SatDump software on an old laptop for image processing.

Unfortunately NOAA-15 was decommissioned a few hours after this image was received. There are currently no U.S. polar orbiting weather satellites transmitting in the VHF band, but the Russian Meteor satellites do transmit in that band and I've had some luck receiving them.

This is a learning process so hopefully I'll have an update in the near future.

Steve ~ NA4SA

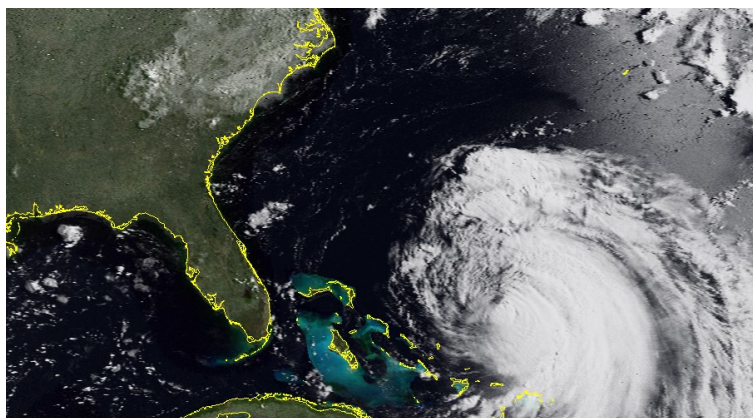


Image received by NA4SA in his backyard directly from orbit with a homebrew antenna and a simple USB dongle SDR Receiver in his laptop computer. You can interact with the Space Age without a huge investment in equipment or software. Check with Steve NA4SA for more information on how to set this up for yourself!

TARC History Online and Ready to Enjoy!

The Internet Archive's Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications has finished archiving the Mosquito Net material.

Please view this archive at this website:

<https://archive.org/details/titusville-arc?sort=-addeddate>

It consists of a collection of over 500 QSL cards collected by Carol Ramos, KC4VIN. It also has Net rosters, newsletters, and a remembrance of Les Widick, K4BZJ.

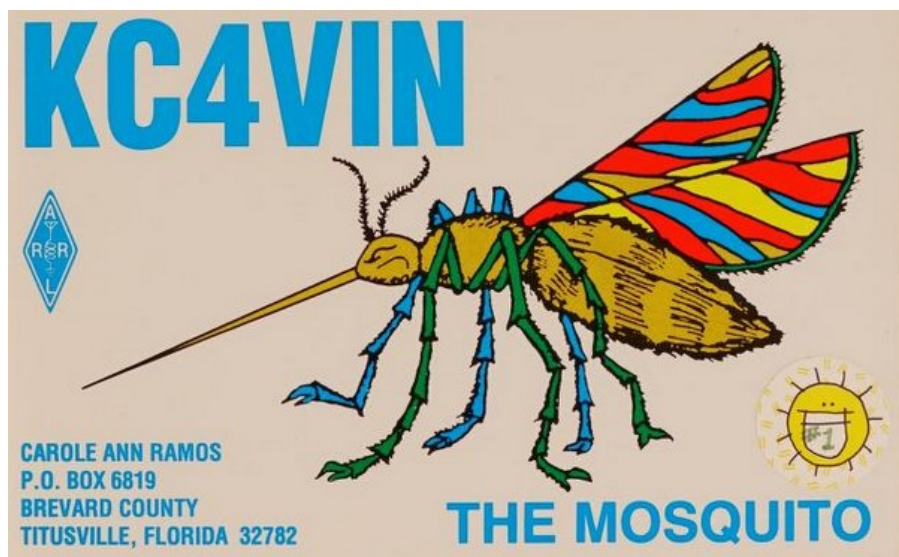
Note that most of these items are archived as multi-page "books." So, for example, if you click on Carol's QSL collection you'll be able to page through and not only see the front of the card but also read the comments on the back. It

makes interesting reading.

I noted that one of the hams started out as a railroad telegrapher! I've only gone through the first 200 pages so I'm sure there are many more gems in the collection

for you to admire and enjoy. TARC has a long and colorful history if you look back.

Steve—NA4SA



Meshtastic - What is it, and why should Hams be interested??

Meshtastic is kind of like a "Texty-Talkie", please let me explain...

Imagine a world where your radio doesn't just talk to your buddy across the street but gossips with a whole network of small inexpensive radios, passing text messages like a game of telephone tag at a tech convention.

Enter Meshtastic, the open-source, DIY radio system that's got amateur radio nerds giggling with glee. Built on cheap LoRa modules (think tiny, low-power chips with big dreams), Meshtastic creates a mesh network where radios relay messages to each other, no Wi-Fi or cell towers needed. It's like a digital bucket brigade for texts, GPS coordinates, or even cheeky emojis.

Amateur radio, or ham radio, is the granddaddy of this scene, with hams chatting across continents using everything from Morse code to moon-bouncing signals. Meshtastic borrows the DIY spirit but shrinks it to fit in your pocket, focusing on local, off-grid comms.

Picture hams as wise old wizards with giant antennas, while Meshtastic users are the scrappy newbies tinkering with \$30 boards. It's not replacing ham radio's global reach but adds a fun, modern twist for preppers, hikers, or festival-goers who want to stay connected when there is no grid, or the grid goes kaput.

Dave AD6Q and Paul N6PDF brought

in some units during the meeting last week and gave a hands-on lesson on what Meshtastic does and how it can be incorporated into the Amateur Radio hobby as a back-channel way to communicate over a wide area without the need for internet or other resources. Power can be supplied by Solar so it just works without any other infrastructure.

Check out the Club website www.k4ksc.com for more information about the details and how to build your own Meshtastic node. Coming soon!

By Paul N6PDF

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This is an example of a simple, cheap (\$25) Meshtastic Node that interfaces with your smartphone to become a cheap and reliable off-grid means of communicating without any other infrastructure.

Heltec V3 ESP 32 LORA development board shown as an example. Many other models/types available. Widely sold everywhere.

One of these units powered by solar-charged batteries will be placed at our 146.970 repeater site in the near future. It should provide a very wide blanket for LoRa text messaging throughout the North Brevard area. More information to follow

TARC General Membership Meeting 08/26/2025
Masonic Lodge, 19N Washington Ave., Titusville FL

President, N6PDF, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:01pm; followed by Vice President, KN4AQJ, leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees and members introduced themselves; and President, N6PDF established that we had a Quorum.

A Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Meeting Minutes for 7/22/2025, as printed in the July newsletter.

A Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as read by, President, N6PDF.

President, N6PDF, Announced/reminded us of our Weekly Net Times and Net Controls as published in our Monthly Newsletter. Dave, KY4F, added that the Monday evening net on 144.2.10 SSB

Repeater Trustee, Dave, KY4F, stated that all TARC Repeaters are up and running properly.

The following Old/Unfinished Business was discussed:

- New club By-Laws, Status: Paul, N6PDF - On-Hold.
- 501 (c) (3) Status: Stephanie, K4MVO - Ongoing.
- Mission Statement and Club Future, Status: Paul, N6PDF – Pending Survey Results/Ongoing.
- SCARS Work Party: completed/successful.

New Business:

- A Motion was made, seconded, and Unanimously Approved to accept the membership applications from the following new members: Scott Kranitz, KM6KAT; and Greg Melton, KR4DQZ.
- A Motion was made, seconded, and Unanimously Approved, to authorize our Treasurer, Steve, NA4SA, to spend no more than \$250.00, to reserve our spot at Fox Lake Park for TARC's Annual Mosquito Net Anniversary Tail Gate event held in March. (oops. I forgot to add 'and Field Day – (2 days).' Maybe we can add that to September's agenda.)
- Call for membership input, ideas, items, questions, and/or discussions:
 - Barry, N4NMF, who runs our SkyWarn Net on Tuesdays, has a 2 meter amplifier for to loan-out or sell. He has listed this item on our Thursday Friendship/Trader's Net.

Our Guest Speakers were members Dave, AD6Q, who gave us a captivating PowerPoint presentation on Meshtastic, and Paul, N6PDF, thoroughly demonstrated his Meshtastic equipment; and Keith, KN4AQJ, who spoke about and demonstrated his 'cool little' Short-Wave Radio - the Tecsun PL-310, and reminded us that these radios are inexpensive (\$40 - \$50), easy to use, and very useful – especially during hurricane season.

Just Prior to our Guest Speakers we took a short break to watch the successful SpaceX's Starship 10th Test Launch via a YouTube link – 2 of our newest members are SpaceX employees.

Our Meeting was Adjourned at 9.19 M.

The AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc. sponsored the 50/50 Raffle. The winner was Roy, N4RK, for \$30.00; and the AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc., donated the remaining \$30.00, to TARC. Stephanie, K4MVO, also raffled off door prizes provided by the AA4HP Radio Sport Club, Inc., and a lively social time followed.

Respectfully submitted by
TARC Secretary, Stephanie Merritt, K4MVO

Weekly On-the-Air Nets

Name	Frequency	Day	Time	Net Control
2 Meter SSB Net	144.210 MHz USB	Monday	7:00 PM	George WG4ES
Skywarn Net	146.970 MHz	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Barry N4NMF
Mosquito Net	28.333 MHz USB	Wednesday	7:00 PM	George WG4ES
Friendship/Traders Net	146.970 MHz	Thursday	7:00 PM	Keith KN4AQJ

TARC 2025 Christmas Party!

We are confirmed for
Thursday, Dec 11 2025
for our Christmas Party
6 PM at Dixie Cross-roads!!

Mark your Calendars!!!